

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 16, with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0006] The first application of the invention determines a degree execution or non-execution of auto adjustment of the lightness and the contrast over the whole image expressed by the image data, based on the image processing control information included in the image file. For example, when the user intends to express the brightness adequately not over the whole image but in only a part of the image, this arrangement desirably reduce forcible auto adjustment against the user's intention.